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Bush Bites Tongue on CIA Budget

SACRAMENTO (AP) — CIA Director George Bush said Monday that he will never reveal the full budget of his agency to the public, but that he is reporting fully to Congress.

Bush also told 700 guests at a businessmen's luncheon that he does not expect President-elect Jimmy Carter to make any radical change in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Bush told Sacramento's Comstock Club that the CIA reports to seven committees of Congress, and "that's adequate oversight."

"There's a myth abroad that nobody knows, except for the director and maybe the President, how much money the CIA spends," Bush said.

"Every single penny of the CIA budget is reported to the proper committees of Congress. And they're not going to be, as long as I'm director, reported to the people, because I don't believe that you can lay out innermost



AP photo

GEORGE BUSH

details of our intelligence and still have an intelligence capability that's meaningful," he added.

He said less than two per cent of the CIA budget is spent on covert activities, and that those activities are now approved in advance by both congressional and administration oversight agencies.

The rest of the budget is spent on intelligence-gathering about nuclear proliferation and other military subjects, international drug traffic, terrorism and other subjects on which the government must be informed, Bush said.